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Chief, Okinawa Bureau 9 March 1949

Chief, FBIB

Interim Operation and Recruitment of Permanent Staff.

1. Reference your letter and memoranda of 7 and 8 February 1949, enclosed for your information is a preliminary draft of the request to Projects Review Committee for approval of the project. It is observed that:

a. Authority is requested to recruit a permanent staff for activation approximately 1 January 1950 as well as interim operation personnel.

b. Okinawa Bureau T/O is being established with 27 classified positions and 45 Foreign Nationals.

c. Approval is being requested of your wage recommendations without alteration.

d. The recommended employment agreement is being rewritten to eliminate minor conditions of employment, such as PX privileges, which may conceivably not be a permanent commitment.

e. Costs of travel and transportation are being re-estimated on the basis of figures available here and to include travel of the recruiting officer. Two "swings around the circuit" will be requested for complete staffing.

2. With reference to interim operation coverage, it is desired that this coverage be confined in general to coverage not available at other FBIB stations. Coverage now maintained in Tokyo, in particular, should not be transferred, initially at least, to Okinawa. Consequently, transfer of members of the Tokyo staff to Okinawa should not be affected prior to complete activation.

3. It is believed that Morse material not monitorable at other locations is of marginal value. At present, therefore, Morse coverage is not contemplated for the Okinawa interim operation.

4. The list of linguists of your 7 February memorandum, paragraph 4, is generally in line with plans for such coverage with the following exceptions

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a. Indochinese linguist should be a new recruit.

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4. b. It is believed that sufficient Chinese material is available to justify hiring 4 instead of 3 Chinese monitors.

c. The Indonesian in Tokyo should remain there and one additional should be employed for Okinawa.

d. The Hindustani linguist should also handle as many as possible of other Indian languages such as Bengali, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Pushtu, Tamil.

e. One Mongolian should also be obtained unless the Mongolian presently being hired in Tokyo proves to be adequate.

f. It is planned to transfer a classified English monitor from some other station unless there is full assurance that a locally hired monitor would be completely satisfactory.

g. It may be necessary also to assist Parrish in recruiting one or two Koreans for the Tokyo staff if present arrangements in Tokyo prove unsatisfactory. Request that you keep in touch with Parrish on this item.

5. In addition to an English monitor, it is expected to transfer the following classified employees to the interim operation.

1 Chinese Section Chief
1 Section Chief in S.E. Asia languages
1 (and later another) Editor
1 (and later another) Monitoring Technician
1 Teletypist

6. Although travel to all cities listed is being requested, it is hoped that the bulk of linguists can be recruited in Japan and in the Philippines, particularly in view of the possibility of free transportation from those points, and that recruiting trips to more distant locations such as Rangoon, Calcutta, and Batavia can be avoided.

7. Adequate testing of linguist candidates to insure their being fully qualified and of permanent value to FBIB will be a problem. If proper power is likely to be available, it would be best for the recruiting officer to carry an A2M dictaphone transcriber and belt recordings in the necessary languages for local testing at recruiting points. Embassies, consulates and military headquarters could provide assistance in checking and evaluating the tests. If this proposal proves impractical, it is requested that you devise the nearest approach possible to a test of this type and report what method of testing you in fact contemplate.

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8. In regard to security clearances, it will undoubtedly be necessary to run some risk of hiring insecure employees. Negative checks will have to be accepted if positive checks cannot be obtained. In general, FBIB will accept whatever check is satisfactory to RYCOM. Security in operation will be maintained by administrative restrictions upon unclassified employees.

9. Request that you report as soon as possible whether delay, damage and loss of technical equipment in shipping will affect interim operation plans.

L. K. WHITE

Enclosure:
Draft of memo to
Chairman, Projects Review Comm

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